FEMA's Latest Multi-Hazard Software

HAZUS®MH

EARTHQUAKE · WIND · FLOOD

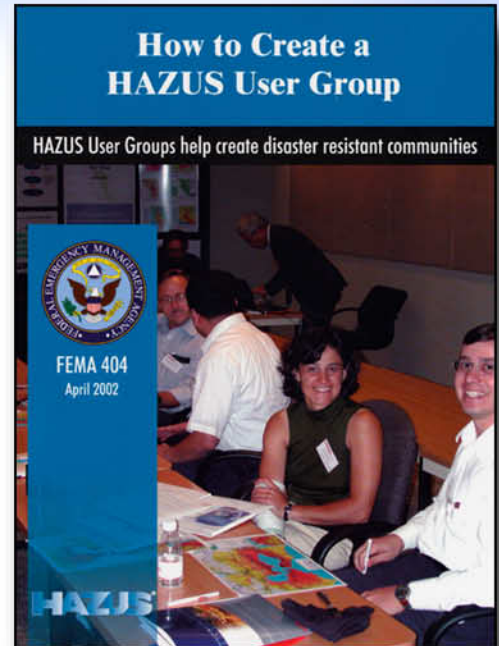*What Could Happen?*

HAZUS User Groups

The growing network of HAZUS User groups has proved to be a valuable mechanism for creating partnerships between public and private sector organizations and industry in which mutually beneficial alliances are formed, goals and objectives developed, and projects identified and executed. User groups throughout the country have found enormous benefits and opportunities to develop successful projects through collaboration, combining resources and the sharing of information, data, and tips on software usage.

For information about forming hazard-specific or multi-hazard HAZUS User Groups and share lessons learned from successful HAZUS User Groups across the country, download FEMA publication 404, "***How To Start a User Group***" from the FEMA web site at **www.fema.gov/hazus/us_main.shtm**

How to Create a HAZUS User Group

HAZUS User Groups help create disaster resistant communities
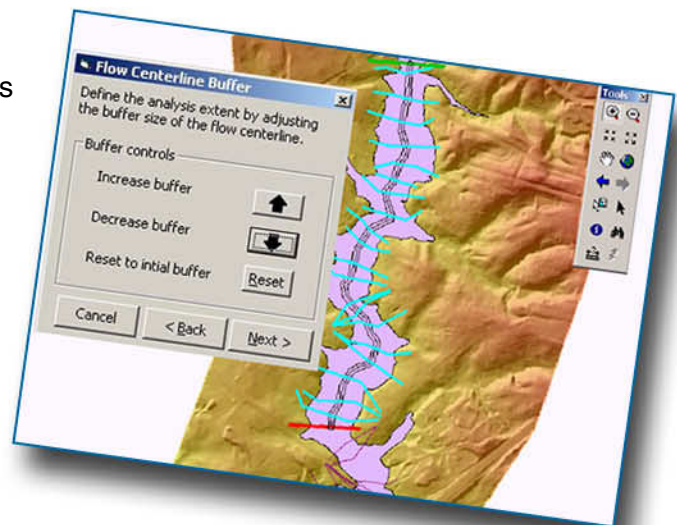
FEMA 404
April 2002

How Does a Hazus User Group Support Mitigation Planning?

All members of a community are disrupted during a disaster. For that reason, all organizations have a stake in disaster planning and mitigation efforts. HAZUS User Groups are formed to reduce the risk of loss and respond to natural hazards by combining the resources of public and private organizations. Each HAZUS User Group needs to formulate and document its vision, mission, goals, and objectives. Public- and private-sector members of a HAZUS User Group should develop a hazard mitigation plan by tapping into the capabilities of the powerful HAZUS tool. HAZUS can be used to develop "what-if" scenarios based on various alternatives, mitigation options, and strategies, allowing emergency managers, risk managers and elected officials to make more informed decisions.

Once a HAZUS User Group has been formed, its members can support the following types of mitigation planning actions.

1. **Organize** people and resources

2. **Assess** risks using the HAZUS tool

3. **Develop** a hazard mitigation plan

4. **Implement** the plan and monitor its progress

What Products Can a Hazus User Group Create?

HAZUS User Groups can produce a variety of products, including:

- **Maps and reports** of modeled loss estimates,
- **Exercises:** Realistic scenarios can drive exercises and responses to actual events,
- **Pilot projects:** To understand losses and potential damage caused by natural hazard events,
- **Risk assessments:** Comprehensive risk assessments help in setting priorities among mitigation projects.
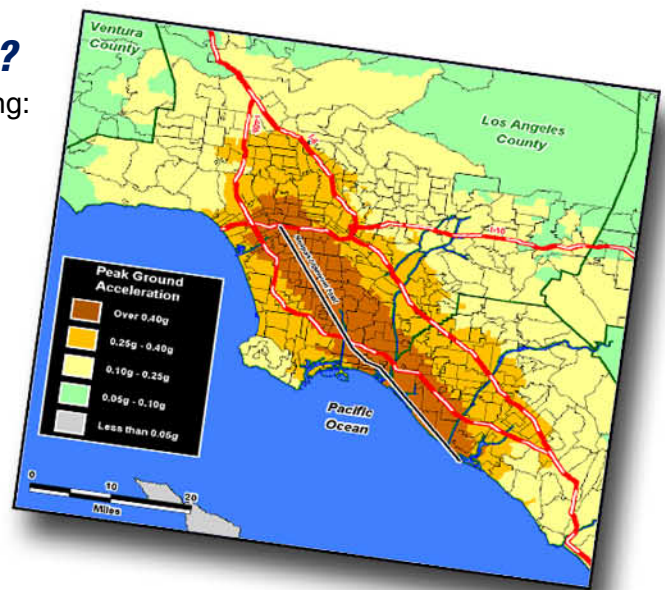
Why Create a Hazus User Group?

A HAZUS User Group should be created when there is a gap between the current capabilities of hazard mitigation and response, and what would exist with the formation of a HAZUS User Group.

By pooling the talents of GIS professionals, risk managers, contingency planners, and natural hazard experts from the public and private sectors, you will be able to:

- Use HAZUS for earthquake, hurricane, and flood scenarios to meet the risk mitigation needs of various organizations
- Use resources more efficiently by achieving economies of scale
- Develop relationships and mechanisms to share ideas and information
- Contribute to improvements in hazard mitigation, response, and planning activities
- Increase awareness of other organizations' capabilities.

Current HAZUS User Groups (HUGs)

- California Central Valley HAZUS User Group (CAValleyHUG)
- Delaware HAZUS User Group (DEHUG)
- Hawaii HAZUS User Group (HIHUG)
- Louisiana HAZUS User Group (LAHUG)
- Montana HAZUS User Group (Big Sky HUG)
- New England HAZUS User Group (NEHUG)

- Oregon HAZUS User Group (ORHUG)
- Salt Lake HAZUS User Group (SaltLakeHUG)
- San Francisco Bay Area HAZUS User Group (BAHUG)
- Southeast US HAZUS User Group (SEHUG)
- Southwest US HAZUS User Group (SWHUG)
- Southern California HAZUS User Group (SoCalHUG)
- Washington HAZUS User Group (WAHUG)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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For more information about HAZUS-MH, and training opportunities, visit the HAZUS page on the FEMA website at **www.fema.gov/hazus**, or send an email to hazus@dhs.gov.

HAZUS-MH is available free of charge.